



**United States Department of the Interior  
California Department of Parks and Recreation**

Redwood National and State Parks  
1111 Second Street  
Crescent City, California 95531



L7617 (2010 FMP EA)

March 4, 2010

Dear Friend of the Park:

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking comments on the enclosed Redwood National Park 2010 draft Fire Management Plan and Environmental Assessment.

The draft Fire Management Plan (FMP) plan covers fire management operations including appropriate wildfire suppression response, hazardous fuels reduction projects, and prescribed fire activities in the national park.

The 2010 draft FMP is similar to the 2005 plan that has guided fire management actions in the national park for the past five years. The National Park Service (NPS) has accomplished the following fire management actions under the 2005 plan:

- Used prescribed fire to restore and maintain grasslands and oak woodlands and cultural landscapes in the Bald Hills in Humboldt County;
- Initiated the use of prescribed fire to restore and maintain Idaho fescue/Jeffrey pine woodlands in the Little Bald Hills in Del Norte County;
- Reduced hazardous fuels to protect historic structures in the Bald Hills;
- Constructed shaded fuel breaks to protect human life and property within the park and adjacent communities including Wolf Creek Outdoor School and Hiouchi;
- Investigated the ecological and historic role of fire in the park.

Similar actions in the 2010 draft FMP include increasing the total acres of prescribed fire from about 4,400 acres to about 6,800 acres, with new prescribed fire units in the Crescent and Enderts Beach areas south of Crescent City to restore grasslands and reduce alien invasive plant species; enlarging shaded fuel breaks near Orick and Hiouchi; and constructing a new break around the Howland Hills Outdoor School in Del Norte County.

Fuel reduction projects and other vegetation management programs such as management of second growth forests and Bald Hills prairies generate large volumes of woody debris from cutting trees less than 12 inches in diameter. The woody debris has typically been left on the forest floor which increases the fire hazard for several years until the debris decomposes. The NPS is proposing to issue firewood permits to allow removal of woody debris generated by fuel reduction and vegetation management projects to reduce fire hazard more quickly than if the wood is allowed to decompose naturally.

The environmental assessment (EA) describes proposed actions and two alternatives for managing fire and achieving fire management goals in Redwood National Park.

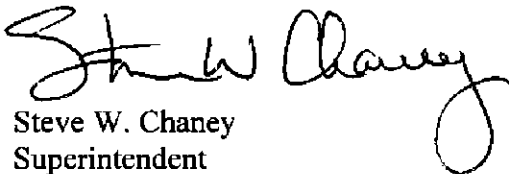
Following public review of the draft plan and EA, the National Park Service (NPS) will select one of the alternatives as its final proposal for managing fire in the park. The selected alternative will become the final plan for fire management in Redwood National Park for five years from 2010 through 2015.

We welcome your comments on this plan. Comments must be submitted in writing by April 16, 2010 and may be sent to:

Mail: Superintendent, Redwood National and State Parks  
Attn: FMP EA  
1111 Second Street  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
Fax: (707) 464-1812

Copies of the environmental assessment are also available for review at local libraries, park offices in Crescent City and Orick, and on the internet at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. For additional information about the fire management program, please contact Rick Young at 707-465-7730 or [rick\\_young@nps.gov](mailto:rick_young@nps.gov). To obtain additional copies of the documents, please contact Aida Parkinson at (707) 465-7703 or [aida\\_parkinson@nps.gov](mailto:aida_parkinson@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Steve W. Chaney  
Superintendent

Enclosures (3)